

REMARKS

Claims 23-38, 40-49, 51-59, and 61 are present in this application. Claims 39, 62 and 64 had been canceled. Claims 23, 24, 38, 49, 51, 53, 55, and 56 are independent.

Claim Objections

Claims 36, 43, 57, 61, and 64 have been objected to as being improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. The Office Action indicated that these claims are directed to an intended use. Applicants had disagreed.

Applicants had explained that the claimed “is applied to research ...” is not recited as a manner in which a claimed apparatus is intended to be employed. The claims are method claims. Claimed steps are further limited to specific applications recited in the respective claims.

In order to expedite allowance of the application, Applicants have amended claims 36, 43, 57, and 61 to explicitly recite a further method step, thereby further limiting the subject matter of the previous claim.

Applicants request reconsideration of the rejection based on the claims as amended.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, Applicants believe the pending application is in condition for allowance.


Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert W. Downs (Reg. No. 48,222) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

RLW

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